

# A few words about Enterprise Risk Management



The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

July 9, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTAL ELEMENTS

FROM:

STEVEN CHU

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Chu".

Subject:

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework for Directives

This memorandum explains a new standardized framework that the Department will be using to develop, revise, and review Departmental Directives. This framework is being called "Enterprise Risk Management," or ERM. It creates a uniform process to evaluate (1) the risks that a proposed Directive is intended to address; (2) for each risk, the probability of that risk occurring and the potential impact if it does; (3) the existing Directives or other controls that are already in place to mitigate that risk; and (4) if there are unacceptable risks that are not already controlled, the best way of protecting

- **Integrated Strategy** - ERM is important because it supports our strategy and our ability to make decisions that are risk-informed.
- **Consistency** – Provides a systematic approach for management and operations – how we make decisions, govern how we establish and implement requirements, and how we hold ourselves accountable .
- **Better Communication** - ERM will provide the framework for clearly articulating the processes we use for execution and governance.
- **Clear and Concrete Measures of Performance** - It will improve efficiency and allow us to communicate consistently with our sponsor and stakeholders.



# ERM framework

1. **Risk Identification.** What can go wrong? How are: people, mission, physical assets, financial assets, and customer/stakeholder trust affected.
2. **Risk Analysis.** What is the likelihood and impact?
3. **Requirements Identification.** What is in place to prevent it?
4. **Controls Identification.** What else (if anything) is needed to control the risk?
5. **Risk Registry.** What documentation is needed so that the logic and conclusions are clear?

